

Appn. No. 10/019,992

Attorney Docket No. 10541-929

**II. Remarks**

Reconsideration and reexamination of this application is herein requested. Claims 19-32 remain pending in the application.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Applicants acknowledge the examiner's indication of allowance of claims 23 and 24, and the allowability of claims 29 and 30 if re-written into independent form.

***Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103***

Claims 19, 25-28 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Bitzel. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As suggested by the examiner, the rejected claims have been amended throughout to refer to "knives" instead of "cutting means". It is submitted that the interpretation of the claims to encompass a single cutter in different orientations would constitute different "cutting means" is not applicable to the present claim language. Further, the rejected independent claims have been amended to recite that the cutting edges are non-continuous. This further defines the claims such that it is clear that a singular cutter would not fall within the scope of the claims and that multiple knives are required. Obviously, and as noted by the examiner, Bitzel's cutting edge is continuous and Bitzel includes only a single cutter/tool.

Applicants respectfully point out that Bitzel and Fazis include only a single cutter, a punch. In order to achieve the cutting of a workpiece, Bitzel discloses rotating or changing the position/orientation of this single punch. Thus, Bitzel has only one cutting element; not the multiple knives as recited in independent claims 19, 25 and 31 of the present application. Additionally, Bitzel and Fazis fail to disclose or suggest operating multiple knives in the claimed sequential manner. The rejections should therefore be withdrawn.

***Conclusion***

In view of the above remarks, it is submitted that pending claims 19-32 are patentable over the art of record. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the



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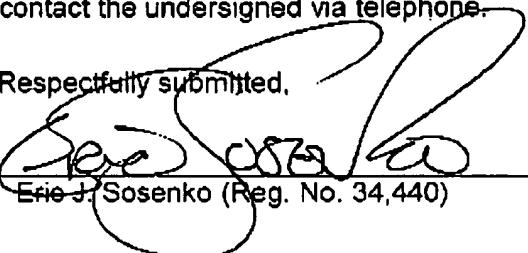
Examiner grant allowance of these claims. If such communication would expedite this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned via telephone.

Respectfully submitted,

January 16, 2007

Date

EJS/alr

  
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Attachments: None

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